

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A recordable and/or rewritable recording medium to record data comprising:  
a Lead-in area;  
a Lead-out area; and  
a user data area;

wherein upon the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing.

2. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

3. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a bare disc not contained in a case of a cartridge.

4. A write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, wherein a recording medium including a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area and a user area, is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing when the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, comprising:

checking the state of the recording medium; and  
prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium when the state of the recording medium is a write protection state.

5. The write protection method of claim 4, wherein the recording medium is a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

6. The write protection method of claim 4, further comprising:  
determining whether the recording medium is positioned in a case;  
if the recording medium is installed in the case, checking whether the case is set to a write protection state; and

if the state of the recording medium checked in said checking of the state of the recording medium does not match the write protection state of the case, informing a user of the difference.

7. The write protection method of claim 6, further comprising:

prohibiting the writing of the data on the recording medium if the state of the recording medium is checked as a write protection state in said checking of the state of the recording medium, or the state of the case checked in said checking whether the case is write protectant is a write protection state.

8. The write protection method of claim 4, wherein the recording medium is positioned in a case of cartridge having a write inhibit hole for write protection.

9. The write protection method of claim 8, further comprising:

determining whether the state of the recording medium matches the write protection state of the write inhibit hole; and  
preventing writing of the new data on the recording medium if the state of the recording medium or the state of the write inhibit hole is set to a write protection state.

10. The write protection method of claim 9, further comprising:

informing a user if the state of the recording medium and that of the write inhibit hole do not match.

11. A storage device comprising:

a recordable and/or rewritable recording medium including

a Lead-in area;  
a Lead-out area; and  
a user data area; and

a cartridge having a case which receives the recording medium;  
wherein the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, when the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed.

12. The storage device of claim 11, wherein the case has a recognition switch for write protection.

13. The storage device of claim 11, wherein the case does not have a recognition switch for write protection.

14. The storage device of claim 11, wherein the recording medium is a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

